

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/788,474

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

Applicant(s)

SHIOUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/31/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 5/17/2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-27 are allowed.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Reginald Lucas on 04/26/2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- a. Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An agent collaboration system for connecting agents to each other through a virtual communication channel, each agent on the virtual communication channel, comprising:

- a policy storing part for storing a policy that is a collection of rules containing a rule representing a relationship between an attribute of the agent and a role assigned in accordance with the attribute;

- a role assignment part having the policy storing part, for providing a role in accordance with the attributes of the agent based on the policy, said role assignment part specifying appropriate contents of a role to be assigned to the agents. based on the policy and the attribute of the agents distributed on the network;

a role-execution condition storing part for storing the role assigned by the role assignment part and conditions for executing contents of the role; and

a processing execution pad for executing corresponding contents of a role in a case where the execution conditions for the contents of the role are satisfied, and

wherein the agents collaborate with each other through the virtual communication channel based on the policy,

an authentication entity is provided on the virtual communication channel and the authentication entity authenticates access right of each agent to the virtual communication channel and contents of a role held by the role-execution condition holding part of each agent,

the authentication entity is divided into a policy approving authority, an attribute authority, and a certification authority, the policy approving authority issues a policy certification for certifying that a policy is an authentic one, based on an electronic signature provided to data describing the policy, the attribute authority issues an attribute certification for certifying attributes of each agent,

the certification authority issues a public key certification for certifying that an agent on the network has been authenticated, and

each agent includes a trust engine for interpreting the policy certification and the attribute certification, and the role assignment pad specifies appropriate contents of a role to be assigned

to the agents, based on the policy and the attribute of the agents distributed on the network

~~an authentication entity provided on the virtual communication channel adapted to authenticate access rights of each agent to the virtual communication channel and contents of a role held by the role execution condition holding part of each agent, said authentication entity being divided into:~~

~~a policy approving authority issuing a policy certification for certifying that a policy is an authentic one, based on an electronic signature provided to data describing the policy:~~

~~an attribute authority issuing an attribute certification for certifying attributes of each agent, and~~

~~a certification authority issuing a public key certification for certifying that an agent on the network has been authenticated, each agent including a trust engine for interpreting the policy certification and the attribute certification.~~

#### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior arts of record teach or suggest the claimed limitation with respect to connecting agents of a network with each other through a virtual communication channel, assigning each of the agents a role in accordance with a corresponding attribute of each agent and based on policy information including rules representing a relationship between the corresponding attribute of each agent and the role assigned in accordance with the attribute, specifying appropriate contents of a role to be assigned to agents, based on the policy and the attribute of the agents distributed on the network, the policy being used to define a virtual communication channel, and dynamically

connecting the agents to each other based on the policy information through the virtual communication channel defined, where contents of the corresponding role assigned to the agents is executed when execution conditions of the respective role is satisfied, authenticating access rights of each agent to the virtual communication channel and contents of a role, issuing a policy certification for certifying that a policy is an authentic one. based on an electronic signature provided to data describing the policy: issuing an attribute certification for certifying attributes of each agent: and issuing a public key certification for certifying that an agent on the network has been authenticated. each agent including a trust engine for interpreting the policy certification and the attribute certification. along with other claim limitations. None of the prior arts of record teach or fairly suggest the claimed limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2154

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp

\*\*\*



John Follanshee

SPE 2154